

**California Department of Conservation
Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program**

2004 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Santa Barbara

FIELD MAPPER(S): Kerri Kisko

IMAGERY:

source: Air Photo USA
date: September, 2004
scale: One foot resolution
film type: true color mosaic
coverage gaps: Cuyama Valley Area (covered with NAIP)
additional imagery: NAIP (National Agricultural Imagery Program), summer 2004, 2-meter resolution, true color mosaic

WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES: *Please list which local governments, interest groups, or individuals submitted comments on the 2002 maps. Also list all phone and in-person contacts made or related GIS data referenced while conducting the 2004 update.*

➤ *local review comments*

cities: City of Lompoc
county:
others:

➤ *personal contacts:*

Mark Bright, County of Santa Barbara, Planning and Development
(805)-568-2088 or Mark@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

➤ *websites:*

County of Santa Barbara (www.countyofsb.org)
B & H Flowers, Inc. (www.bandhflowers.com)
Santa Barbara County Education Office (www.sbceo.k12.ca.us)
Santa Barbara County Vintners Association (www.sbcountywines.com)
Solid Waste Information System (www.ciwmb.ca.gov/swis)

➤ *GIS data referenced:*

California Department of Fish and Game Lands (dfg_lands.shp)
Federal Lands (jv.shp and refuges.shp)
Santa Barbara County Farmland, provided by Mark Bright (farmland_04.shp)
SWIS landfill/waste facility reference file (swis.dgn)

2002-2004 CHANGES*: *Please summarize the most common changes to the maps. List representative locations (quads) of each type of change encountered. Make sure to list and describe particularly large, unusual or notable changes and give estimates of the acreage involved.*

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land**

This update there were 12 conversions of irrigated farmland to urban land. The majority of these conversions were in the form of new housing developments, schools, and businesses in the cities of Santa Maria and Lompoc. In Santa Maria, the new housing development Bradley Square (≈120 acres) was added as well as another large development (≈95 acres) along Blosser Road. Tommie Kunst Junior High School (≈20 acres) and Pioneer Valley High School (≈50 acres) were also added. On the west side of Santa Maria, the Cal Giant Cooling facility (≈10 acres) was noted.

In Lompoc, the Crowne Pointe housing development (≈15 acres) and the new Home Depot (≈20 acres) were added. Near Guadalupe, the Bonita School (≈10 acres) was expanded and now meets our minimum mapping size. On Vandenberg Air Force Base (Surf quad) some water control structures (≈15 acres) were noted.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Urban Land**

The majority of local, grazing, or other land that was converted to urban land (27 changes) was in the form of housing this update. Most of these conversions were fairly small, 10-20 acres each. These changes occurred throughout the county.

In the western part of the county, the Cherrywood Estates housing development (≈30 acres) was added, some new warehouses (≈20 acres) near the Santa Maria Public Airport were noted, and a brand new elementary school (≈10 acres) was built in the City of Santa Maria. Nearby, in Orcutt, the Lorraine Estates housing development (≈60 acres) was added as well as two small areas of homes (≈10 acres each). In Lompoc, the airport was expanded (≈45 acres) and two areas of homes (≈15 and 20 acres) were added. On Vandenberg Air Force Base, the Vandenberg AFB Landfill (≈30 acres) was noted, as well as two areas of buildings (≈10 and 15 acres).

In the Santa Ynez Valley, the Lomita de Oro housing development (≈10 acres) was added in Los Alamos. In Buellton, an approximately 10-acre area of new homes was noted. In Santa Ynez, an area of homes (≈15 acres) and some buildings (≈15 acres) were added. Nearby, in Ballard, a small area of homes (≈10 acres) was noted.

Along the south coast, the Tajiguas Sanitary Landfill was expanded by approximately 10 acres and an area of homes (≈15 acres) was added in Ellwood. Also, in Montecito, another area of homes (≈20 acres) was noted. Nearby, in Carpinteria, the Tee Time golf driving range (≈15 acres) and the Viola Fields baseball complex (≈10 acres) were added.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Local or Grazing Land**

There were 35 conversions of prime, statewide, or unique farmland to farmland of local importance or grazing land this update. The majority (23) of these changes were due to irrigated farmland being fallow for three or more update cycles and were scattered

throughout the county. These changes were fairly small, most less than 20 acres each. Large conversions of 50 acres or more occurred on the Foxen Canyon (1), Los Alamos (1), and Los Olivos (1) quads.

Other conversions were due to the identification of nonirrigated beans (7) and nonirrigated grain (5), both of which are considered farmland of local importance. The nonirrigated beans were discovered mainly in the Lompoc Hills and the nonirrigated grain in the Santa Ynez Valley. These fields had been noted as possibly dry-farmed for multiple updates. Most of these changes were less than 30 acres, however, changes larger than 50 acres were noted on the Lompoc Hills (1) and Santa Ynez (2) quads.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land**

This update there were 43 conversions of irrigated farmland to other land. The majority of these conversions were due to farmland being fallow for three or more update cycles and in isolated areas less than 40 acres (grazing has a 40 acre minimum mapping size). These changes were scattered throughout the county. Other changes were due to areas of low-density housing (ranchettes) and farmsteads (main farm house with gravel area used for equipment storage). Most of these changes were fairly small (less than 20 acres), however, an approximately 40-acre area of ranchettes was added on the Cuyama Peak quad. Mining operations accounted for two changes, an approximately 25-acre area on the Sisquoc quad and an approximately 20-acre area on the Solvang quad.

➤ **Local, Grazing to Other Land**

There were 44 conversions of local or grazing land to other land this update. The majority of these changes were due to areas of ranchettes and farmsteads. Most of these changes were fairly small (less than 20 acres) and were scattered throughout the county. Large additions of 50 acres or greater occurred on the Los Alamos (1), Los Olivos (7), Solvang (2), and Zaca Creek (1) quads. Other changes were due to areas of rural commercial (low density areas of businesses), mining activities, and a dairy.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Irrigated Farmland**

This update there were 122 conversions of local, grazing, or other land to irrigated farmland. These changes occurred throughout the county and primarily were in the form of row crops, orchards, vineyards, or nurseries. The majority of these changes were less than 50 acres. In the Cuyama Valley, where we have had limited imagery in the past, an approximately 1,550-acre area of carrots and two areas of row crops (≈150 and 120 acres) were added on the New Cuyama quad and an area of orchards (≈150 acres) was added on the Cuyama quad. Some other changes of note include, an area of row crops (≈260 acres) on the Foxen Canyon quad, an area of row crops (≈150 acres) on the Twitchell Dam quad, and an area of vineyards (≈80 acres) on the Foxen Canyon quad.

➤ **UNUSUAL:** *Category changes, complications with the Farmland of Local Importance definition, or any other special circumstances in 2004.*

- Conversions from Urban Land: There were seven conversions of urban land to

other categories, totaling about 35 acres. The majority (5) of these changes were small boundary adjustments due to improved digital imagery. The other changes were due to irrigated agriculture. In Orcutt, an approximately 10-acre area of crops was discovered within the Rancho Maria Golf Club. In Santa Barbara, an area of orchards (\approx 15 acres) was found in the hills near the Sycamore Canyon Creek.

- Local to Grazing Land: There were eight conversions of farmland of local importance to grazing land. All of these changes were due to nonirrigated farmland (beans or grain) being fallow for four update cycles. These changes were scattered throughout the county. Four of these changes were fairly small (30 acres or less). The other four changes were larger than 50 acres and occurred on the Guadalupe (1), New Cuyama (2), and Solvang (1) quads.

- Grazing Land to Local: There were 12 conversions of grazing land to farmland of local importance. All of these changes were due to new areas of nonirrigated farmland (beans or grain) and primarily occurred in the hilly areas of the northwestern portion of the county. The majority of these changes were 20 acres or less. Larger conversions of 25 acres or more occurred on the Los Olivos (1) and Orcutt (2) quads.

- Conversions between Irrigated Farmland categories: There were ten conversions of irrigated farmland to nurseries (container or hydroponic). Nursery plants that are grown in containers or hydroponically are considered unique farmland, regardless of the soil conditions. The majority of these changes were fairly small (30 acres or less) and occurred in the south coastal portion of the county. The one large change was the B and H Flowers nursery (\approx 55 acres) that was noted in Carpinteria.

PROBLEM AREAS: *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2006? Why?*

There is a substantial amount of Farmland of Local Importance that is currently in some stage of the following process. Pay close attention to this category.

LABOR ESTIMATE: *Please estimate the amount of time spent on the following tasks.*

photo interpretation, start date: May 19, 2005

photo interpretation, number of days: 15

ground truthing dates: June 27-30, 2005

days for map compilation and clean up: 15

* **Note:** **Irrigated Farmland** = Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance or Unique Farmland; **Local** = Farmland of Local Importance

Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:

www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp